

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 05587 01 OF 02 281054Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----063748 281059Z /14
O 280900Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1946

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 5587

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US
SUBJECT: KIM DONG-JO AFFAIR

REF: A) SEOUL 5428; B) SEOUL 5429; C) SEOUL 5533;
D) STATE 164005

1.EARLIEST VERSION OF KIM RESIGNATION STATEMENT WAS REPORTED
REF A.THERE IS NO TEXT OF HIS LETTER AVAILABLE AND MOST PRESS
REPORTS RELY ON PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS MADE BY KIM. FULL TEXT
OF PRESS CONFERENCE DOES NOT EXIST BUT FOLLOWING ARE FRAGMENTARY
QUOTES TAKEN FROM LOCAL PRESS:

"HOWEVER, I REGRET THAT THE U.S. HOUSE REQUESTED ME TO MAKE
PRESCRIBED ANSWERS FAR BEYOND THE SCOPE OF A REQUEST FOR
COOPERATION BASED ON MY CONSCIENCE AND TRUTH, AND IT IS EXACTING
SUCH ANSWERS FROM ME BY MEANS OF THREATS LIKE THE CUT OF THE
GRAIN LOAN (PL-480)."

"I CANNOT BUT BE ANGRY AT REPRESSIVE MEASURE LIKE
THIS INSULTING MY PERSONAL CHARACTER AND US."

"I HAVE SO FAR ENDURED INSULTS ALTHOUGH I HAD A LOT
OF THINGS TO SAY TO LEON JAWORSKI, SPECIAL COUNSEL OF
THE U.S. HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE."

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 05587 01 OF 02 281054Z

"I HAVE KEPT SILENCE, HOWEVER, AS THE DIPLOMATIC
PRIVILEGES STIPULATED IN THE VIENNA CONVENTION ARE NOT
A PRIVATE MATTER. IT IS AN ISSUE WHICH SHOULD BE KEPT
BY ALL STATES." HE EXPLAINED THAT HE DID SO BECUASE HE
COULD NOT DO SUCH A THING AS COMMUNICATE WITH THE U.S.
CONGRESS BY MEANS OF PERSONAL LETTERS IN HIS OFFICIAL

POST AS A SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT. HE SAID HE WAS DETERMINED TO CONFRONT JAWORSKI "TAKING OFF HIS GLOVES."

"IT'S INDEED NONSENSE FOR LEE JAE-HYUN TO SAY HE SAW ME DOING WHAT HE CALLED COUNTING MONEY BECAUSE I'VE NEVER DONE SUCH A THING AT MY OFFICE NOR DID I EVER GO TO THE U.S. CONGRESS. PARTICULARLY, HIS OFFICE WAS NOT NEAR MY OWN. HE DID NOT COME TO MY OFFICE FREQUENTLY."

"JAWORSKI WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT MY GIVING MONEY. BUT THERE'S NO SUCH THING. HOW CAN I TELL THEM SUCH?"

"I WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE AN INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE CALL --HOW CAN I DO IT IN MY PRIVATE CAPACITY IF I CONTINUE TO SERVE THE PRESIDENT?"

"MY NAME IS ON TV AND RADIO MORNING AND EVENING. EVEN SOME WIRE SERVICES LIST ME AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT INSTEAD OF FORMER AMBASSADOR. I WAS SO OBLIGATED TO THE PRESIDENT, SO I TOLD MY WISHES TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL A LONG TIME AGO. THIS MORNING I SPOKE TO THE PRESIDENT SINCE THE U.S. CUT OF PL-480 IS VERY REGRETTABLE FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRY."

"BY RESIGNING I CAN COMPENSATE FOR THE GOVERNMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 05587 01 OF 02 281054Z

AND THE PEOPLE."

"NOW THAT I RESIGNED I FEEL LIKE CHALLENGING JAWORSKI ITEM BY ITEM, ALL WHICH IS UNFOUNDED AND WITHOUT EVIDENCE."

"AS AN AMBASSADOR YOU CAN NEVER CALL ON ANYBODY WITHOUT PRIOR APPOINTMENT. IF I VISITED CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES WITH MONEY-STUFFED ENVELOPES, ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS CHECK THEIR APPOINTMENT CALENDARS."

"I NEVER SHARED A ROOM WITH LEE. HOW COULD HE BE ABLE TO SAY WHAT HE SAW?"

"IF IT WASN'T FOR DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY I WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE JAWORSKI ITEM BY ITEM."

"AS FOR THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE, I AGREED TO SEE KRISHER BECAUSE HE ADVISED ME TO SAY SOMETHING -- OTHERWISE MY FRIENDS MIGHT BE LED TO BELIEVE THE FALSE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ME AS THE TRUTH."

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05587 02 OF 02 281056Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SEOUL 5587

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"NOW JAWORSKI SAYS WHAT I WILL TELL HIM IS GOING TO BE THE SAME AS THE NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW, THEN IT'S NOT WORTH LISTENING TO. THEN HE CHALLENGED ME TO SAY TO WHOM AND HOW MUCH MONEY I GAVE. HOW CAN I COMPLY WITH THIS WHEN NO SUCH THING TOOK PLACE? HE EVEN ASKED A GUARANTEE OF MY PRIVATE LETTER. THIS IS NOTHING OTHER THAN AN OUTRIGHT VIOLATION OF MY PERSONAL INTEGRITY."

"THE REASON I TENDERED MY RESIGNATION IS I CAN'T EVEN WRITE A PRIVATE LETTER WHILE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE. SO I RESIGNED TO CHALLENGE JAWORSKI."

2. COMMENT: WELL-PLACED SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT KIM BECAME QUITE EMOTIONAL DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESS. THEY STATE THAT AS A RESULT HE TOOK ON A COMBATIVE STANCE AND INDICATED HE HAD NO FEAR OF JAWORSKI AND WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO AN EXCHANGE WITH HIM. HOWEVER, THIS, IT IS STRESSED, MUST BE READ AS WHAT HE WOULD LIKE TO DO AND NOT WHAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO DO IN LIGHT OF HIS PAST POSITION AND THE VIENNA CONVENTION. DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT IN SOME STATEMENTS KIM REFERS TO THE EARLIER PLAN TO HAVE HIM CALL THE SPEAKER AND USES THIS AS JUSTIFICATION FOR WHY HE HAD TO RESIGN. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO READ INTO KIM'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ANY GREATER WILLINGNESS ON HIS PART TO COOPERATE THAN IS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 05587 02 OF 02 281056Z

PRESENT IN THE GOVERNMENT POSITION. IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT KIM'S RESIGNATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN PART OF ROK GAME PLAN SO THAT ANY ACTIONS BY HIM WOULD BE AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN AND NOT AS A SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT. KIM'S RELUCTANCE TO RESIGN OVER A PERIOD OF SOME WEEKS HAS BEEN A MAJOR BOTTLENECK. THUS, WE DOUBT ANY INTENTION ON HIS PART TO SEEK WAYS TO MEET WITH JAWORSKI.

3. HAPTONG REPORT NOTED PARA 5 REF D TRACKS CLOSELY WITH STATEMENTS MADE BY YU CHUNG-NA ON JUNE 23 AS REPORTED REF B. USUAL PRESS SOURCE FOR SUCH INFORMATION HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU AND YU WAS EITHER TELLING POLCOUNS WHAT HE HAD ALREADY GIVEN TO PRESS OR WHAT HE INTENDED TO BRIEF.

4. AS INDICATED REF C, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT HIGHER LEVEL ROK OFFICIALS REMAIN OPEN TO CONTINUED DIALOGUE (PARA 1 REF C) AND THAT LAST ROK PROPOSAL IS STILL AN OPTION (RHIE COMMENT PARA 4 REF C). WE WILL ATTEMPT TO PIN THIS DOWN. WE SEE THE PROBABILITY OF A MORE COOPERATIVE STATEMENT BY THE ROKG AT THIS TIME AS REMOTE, BUT WILL PUSH FOR ONE. THIS RELUCTANCE OF EITHER SIDE TO TAKE INITIATIVE WAS THE REASON FOR OUR SUGGESTION IN PARA 5 REF C. WHAT WE APPEAR TO HAVE NOW IS ALL OF THE PLAYERS READY FOR THE GAME TO CONTINUE, WITH NO ONE WILLING TO THROW OUT THE FIRST BALL. THUS OUR THOUGHT THAT IF JUSTICE OR THE DEPARTMENT COULD OBTAIN THE QUESTIONS FROM JAWORSKI AND SEND THEM ALONG, WE COULD GO TO WORK ON OBTAINING A REPLY. IF THE GAME IS TO START WE MAY HAVE TO ABANDON OUR PASSIVE ROLE.

5. OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS WE WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS IN BOTH MOFA AND KCIA IN AN EFFORT TO GET THINGS MOVING. WILL REPORT RESULTS AS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 SEOUL 05587 02 OF 02 281056Z

SOON AS AVAILABLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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